

Jackie Lacey
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<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

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Oct. 4, 2016

**Gardena Man Charged with Stabbing
Death of Man Found on Sidewalk**

A 23-year-old man was charged today with the fatal stabbing of a Gardena man on his way to a bus stop, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Larry Lee Wainscott (dob 6/3/93) of Gardena faces one count of murder with a knife use allegation in case YA094905.

Wainscott is scheduled to be arraigned today in Department 4 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Torrance Branch.

Victim Robert Kazuo Mello, 48, was allegedly stabbed to death as he walked in the 14900 block of Vermont Avenue in Gardena, where his body was later spotted by a passerby, prosecutors said.

Deputy District Attorney Linda Kwon is assigned to the case.

Prosecutors are seeking \$1 million bail. Wainscott faces a possible maximum sentence of 25 years to life in state prison if convicted as charged.

The case remains under investigation by the Gardena Police Department.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.